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SCIENCE

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MEDICINE AND THE PUBLIC¹

Mr. President, Members of the Medical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen: We are gathered here to-night to dedicate this building to the science of medicine in the District of Columbia, and, in a broader sense, to the service of the community and humanity.

This beautiful building is the realization of the dream of the society for a century and over, and has been made possible by the loyalty and self-sacrifice of a large majority of the medical men of this city, and the generosity of many friends of our profession here and elsewhere.

The funds necessary for the erection of this building were raised in two years by the persistent, untiring efforts of the members of the building committee, who have had supervision of the preparation and execution of the plans, and who feel that they can congratulate the architect, the contractor, the Medical Society and the District of Columbia upon the results.

While the funds immediately necessary for the erection of the building have been raised, there remains a mortgage of fifty thousand dollars to be carried by the society.

It is the desire of a majority of the members that this indebtedness be paid off in the near future in order that this building may be presented to posterity as their contribution, leaving the care and maintenance as the only burden.

The aim of the Medical Society as typified in this building is the elevation of the profession to a higher scientific standard for increased public usefulness. There can be no doubt that this aim concerns the public even more than it does the profession. The more highly developed the scientific attainments of the medical profession, the more it redounds

¹ Dedicatory address delivered on occasion of the opening of the new home of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, January 12, 1921.